



Current Affairs Supplement

May 2022

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National

India's First Indigenous Aircraft Carrier, INS Vikrant Will be Delivered to Indian Navy

India's First Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC), Indian Navy Ship (INS) **Vikrant** will be delivered to the Indian Navy by May, 2022 and will be commissioned on (Independence Day) 15 August, 2022. The IAC has been constructed by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL). The IAC will use **ski-jump** technology for launching the aircraft from the carrier. It costs around **Rs 23,000 crore**. The IAC is 262 metres long, 62 metres wide and it has a height of 59 metres and it has over 2,300 compartments. The warship will operate MiG-29K fighter jets, Kamov-31 helicopters, and MH-60R multi-role helicopters.



- Around 60 percent of the components of the aircraft carrier are indigenous while the remaining 40 percent have been imported.
- The CSL has obtained a contract for around eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW SWC).
- Also, CSL has been declared as the lowest bidder for the New Generation Missile Vessel (NGMV) project.

India's First Greenfield Grain-Based Ethanol Production Plant Inaugurated in Bihar

Nitish Kumar, the Chief Minister of Bihar, opened the **country's first greenfield grain-based ethanol factory** in Purnia (or Purnea), Bihar on 30th April 2022 and indicated that ethanol production would help cut the cost of petrol while also creating jobs.



- This plant is set to produce 65,000 litres of ethanol per day and it will need 150 tons of maize and rice every day.
- Two more such units are ready to be inaugurated in Gopalganj and Bhojpur district, respectively. The other units would be set up in Muzaffarpur, Nalanda, Buxar, Begusarai, East Champaran and Bhagalpur districts.

Ethanol Plant in Bihar

Following the Central Government's permission on Bihar's Ethanol Production and Promotion Policy-2021, Bihar State Government proceeded with an outlay of about Rs 105 crore to set up a grain based ethanol plant which was constructed by Eastern India Biofuel Pvt Limited.

i. The produced ethanol would be sold only to Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum, and Hindustan Petroleum in the state as well as West Bengal and Jharkhand, for which the OMCs have signed a 10-year purchase agreement.

WPI inflation hits 30-year high, clocks 15.08% in April 2022

The Office of the Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade released the index numbers of wholesale price in India (Base Year: 2011-12) for the month of April, 2022 (Provisional) and for the month of February, 2022 (Final).



- The annual rate of inflation was **15.08%** (Provisional) for the month of April, 2022 (Y-o-Y) as compared to **10.74%** in April, 2021. It is the highest since September 1991, 30-year high.
- The rate of inflation based on WPI (Wholesale Price Index) Food Index increased marginally from 8.71% in March, 2022 to **8.88%** in April, 2022.

Key Points:

- Vegetable inflation picked up in April to 23.24%, leading to a food inflation of 8.35 per cent,
- Edible oil inflation remained in double digits for the twenty-ninth consecutive month at 15.05%.
- Core inflation, which excludes food and fuel inflation, rose marginally to a four-month high of 11.1%.
- Fuel inflation climbed to 38.66%, while inflation for manufactured products increased to 10.85%.

Retail inflation in India surges to 8-year high of 7.79% in April 2022

Retail inflation in India surged to 7.79% on an annual basis in the month of April 2022 owing to higher edible oil & fuel prices. It is now at the highest level since the 8.33% hit in May 2014.

AWL Becomes India's Largest FMCG company Surpassing HUL

Adani Wilmar Limited (AWL) became the **largest** Fast Moving Consumer Goods Company (FMCG) in India beating Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL), after the announcement of its Quarter Four results for the Financial year 2022 (Q4FY2022).



- AWL has reported the total operational revenue of Rs 54,214 crore in the Financial Year 2022 whereas HUL reported the revenue of Rs 51,468 crore in the Financial Year (FY) 2021-22.

Key Points:

i. In Q4FY22 (January-March 2022), the AWL has seen a 40 percent jump in revenue from operations to Rs

14,960 despite a 26 percent i.e. Rs 234.29 crore hit in net profit in the same period.

ii. The edible oil business of AWL contributed 84 percent of its total revenue in FY2022, which stood at Rs 45,401 crore, approximately 47 percent year-on-year increase from Rs 30,818 crore in FY2021.

About Adani Wilmar Limited:

Adani Wilmar, a 50:50 joint venture between business conglomerate Adani Group and Singapore-based Wilmar, recently got listed on the stock exchange after raising Rs 3,600 crore through an Initial Public Offer (IPO).

RIL Becomes First Indian Company to Cross USD 100Bn Revenue

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has become the first Indian company to reach USD 100 billion (bn) revenue in fiscal 2022. RIL's revenue in FY22 has increased 47% to Rs 7.9 lakh crore (USD 105 billion) with the growth in its oil to chemical (O2C) and consumer business (Jio & Retail) business.



- With a profit growth of 26% to Rs 67,845 crore (US 9 billion), RIL retains its top position as India's most profitable private company.
- RIL has announced a dividend of Rs 8 per fully paid-up equity share of Rs 10 each for the financial year ended on 31st March 2022. This is subject to the approval of members of the company at the ensuing Annual General Meeting of the company.
- The TATA Group (collection of over 30 companies across 10 sectors) had a revenue of USD 103 billion in FY2021. The TATA group's FY2022 numbers are yet to be declared.

VP Venkaiah Naidu Released Book Titled "The Struggle for Police Reforms in India" by Ex-IPS Prakash Singh

Vice President (VP) of India, M Venkaiah Naidu, released a book titled "The Struggle for Police Reforms in India: Ruler's Police to People's Police" authored by a former IPS officer, Prakash Singh in New Delhi, Delhi.

The book is published by Rupa Publications India Pvt Ltd.

About the book:



- i. This book documents the efforts made to bring about police reforms in India.
- ii. The book provides the historical background to the origin of the Indian Police and traces the evolution during British Rule and subsequently since independence.
- iii. The book focuses on the efforts of Prakash Singh to bring transformational changes in the Indian Police.

Police reforms in India:

- i. In 1996, Prakash Singh filed Public Interest Litigation (**PIL**) in the Supreme Court for reforming the police.
- ii. In 2006, he got a favourable judgement from the Supreme Court, mandating country-wide police reform and issuing seven crucial directives to immediately start the implementation process.

About Prakash Singh:

- i. Prakash Singh, a 1959 batch IPS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre, is the Chairman of the Indian Police Foundation (IPF).
- ii. Prakash Singh has served as the Police Chief of 2 of the largest states of India: Uttar Pradesh and Assam, and also Director General of India's Border Security Force (**BSF**).
- iii. He was a Member of the National Security Advisory Board (2013-14) and He is also an Associate Fellow of the Joint Special Operations University (US).

India Gets Its 100th Unicorn Start-Up as N7eo-Bank 'Open' Crosses USD 1 Bn

Open Financial Technologies Pvt Ltd, a neo-banking start-up, reached a valuation of USD 1 billion (bn) after its Series D round of fundraising, bringing the total number of **Unicorns** in the Indian start-up ecosystem to 100.

In a Series D funding round, Open Financial Technologies Private Ltd. received USD 50 million from IIFL Finance Ltd, along with existing investors – Singaporean state holding company Temasek, American investment firm Tiger Global, and another Indian firm, 3one4 Capital. This contributed to its valuation exceeding USD 1 billion.



Unicorn: A privately held start-up company with a valuation of over \$1 billion is referred to as a “unicorn” in the venture capital industry.

Note:

- **Neo-Bank:** It is a type of digital bank that does not have any physical locations. It provides customers with a more affordable alternative to traditional banks.
- InMobi, a mobile ad platform, was the first unicorn to be declared in 2011.

Indian Unicorn Landscape with 100 Unicorns

i. According to the Economic Survey, 2021-22, this funding reflects the enthusiasm in India's start-up ecosystem, which is the world's third-largest after the United States of America (USA) and China, and India has overtaken the United Kingdom to reach the spot.

- As of March 25, 2022, India had 94 unicorns with a total valuation of USD 319.67 billion.

ii. **The Sector in the Lead:** Fintech is the second start-up sector to surpass the 20-unicorn milestone, following e-commerce, which has 23 unicorns. With 17 unicorns from the sector, enterprise tech is on track to join the club next.

New Electoral Map for Jammu and Kashmir was Released

Redrawing the electoral map of Jammu and Kashmir, a three-member Delimitation Commission earmarked **47 Assembly seats for Kashmir** division and **43 for Jammu** in its final order submitted just a day before its two-year tenure was to end. The total number seats in the Jammu & Kashmir to **90 from 83 earlier**.



- The three members of the panel are **retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai (head)** with two other ex-officio members, Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and Chief Electoral Officer of Jammu and Kashmir KK Sharma.

Three other important decisions made from the order of the delimitation panel, they are

i. Reorganisation of the Parliamentary constituencies such that the five Lok Sabha seats now are made up of exactly 18 Assembly constituencies each, taking the total number to 90.

ii. Reservation of nine Assembly seats for Scheduled Tribes – six in Jammu and three in Kashmir, and

iii. The commission recommended the Jammu & Kashmir region as one single Union Territory and therefore, one of the Parliamentary Constituency has been carved out for the new Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat. Commission has merged parts of two districts Rajouri-Poonch from Jammu areas with Kashmir's three districts Anantnag, Kulgam and Shopian.

New Electoral Map for Jammu and Kashmir

i. A gazette notification was issued after the panel, headed by **retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai**, signed the final order giving Jammu six additional seats and one more to Kashmir; earmarking it as **47 Assembly seats for Kashmir division and 43 for Jammu**.

ii. Before restructuring, Jammu had 37 Assembly constituencies, and Kashmir 46 Assembly constituencies.

iii. The seats are at par with nominated members of the Puducherry Assembly who have the right to vote.

iv. There are 24 seats in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) that will continue to remain vacant.

About Delimitation Commission

i. The Delimitation Commission is appointed by the President of India and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India. The panel was set up in March 2020 and term was to end on March 6, 2022.

ii. **Composition:** Retired Supreme Court judge Chief Election Commissioner Respective State Election Commissioners.

iii. **Function:**

- To determine the number and boundaries of constituencies to make population of all constituencies nearly equal.
- To identify seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, wherever their population is relatively large.

Chhattisgarh First State To Restore Old Pension Scheme

Chhattisgarh has become the first state in the country to restore the old pension scheme in order to provide assured income to retired employees. The state issued Gazette notification to switch back to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) from National Pension Scheme (NPS) will be effective from April 1, 2022.



- In Feb. 2022 Rajasthan had also announced restoration of OPS in its 2022-2023 budget the state has not issued a Gazette notification.
- The state has also sent a detailed proposal to Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) to withdraw '17,000 crore accrued under the market-driven National Pension System (NPS) since November 2004.

Benefits and Exemption

i. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel in 2022 -2023 Budget announced the government's decision to revert to the old pension system (OPS) for State government employees.

ii. The move will benefit over three lakh employees who joined service after January 1, 2004.

iii. However, it will not be applicable to officials of the All India Services like members of the Indian Administrative Service or the Indian Police Service.

Main Difference in the Old and New Pension Scheme

- The main difference between two pension systems is that while an employee has to make a voluntary contribution towards pension by undertaking a 10% deduction from the basic salary and dearness allowance, there is no such deduction under OPS. However, a minimum of 12 per cent of basic salary will be deducted as per the General Provident Fund rule.
- Under the Old Pension Scheme, the government gives 50% of the salary of an employee as pension at the time of retirement.

Adani Group Set to Buy Ambuja Cements, ACC for \$10.5 bn from Holcim Ltd

Adani Group which belongs to Gautam Adani is set to acquire swiss multinational company Holcim's stake in Indian companies Ambuja Cements and its subsidiary ACC for \$10.5 bn (around Rs 81,361 crore), including the open offers.



Acquisition

- The value for the Holcim stake and open offer consideration for Ambuja Cements and ACC is USD 10.5 billion, which makes this the largest-ever acquisition by Adani, and India's largest-ever M&A transaction in the infrastructure and materials space.
- Holcim, through its subsidiaries, holds 63.19 per cent in Ambuja Cements and 54.53 per cent in ACC (of which 50.05 per cent is held through Ambuja Cements).
- Deutsche Bank, BarCap and Standard Chartered were financiers to the deal. Deutsche Bank was the financial adviser to Adani Group.

ICF Chennai manufactures 'GatiShakti' trains – India's 1st Semi-High Speed Freight Trains

Indian Railways announced its plan of introducing India's 1st Semi-High Speed Freight Trains by December 2022. The 16-coach 'Gati Shakti' trains, based on the Vande Bharat platform, are capable of operating at a speed of 160 km per hour.

The trains will be manufactured at the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

- The Trains are constructed under "PM Gati Shakti – National Master Plan for Multi-modal Connectivity", and are based on the concept of Vande Bharat trains.

Aim – Indian Railways targets to enhance India's **e-commerce** and courier parcel segment, with these dedicated high speed freight trains.

i. Indian Railways is set to increase its capacity in freight transportation to **45% in 2030**, from the current 27%..

Project Background:

- At present, the overall target is set to 25 such freight trains, with 2 of them to be delivered by ICF in December 2022.
- The first & last wagons are refrigerated to support transport of perishable cargo like Milk, fish, fruits etc.
- As of now, 74 new 'Gati-Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal (GCT) locations' across India (with 20 from South India) were identified by the Indian Railways under the 'Gati-Shakti Multi Model Cargo Terminal' policy.

About Indian Railways:

Indian Railways owns 2 UNESCO World Heritage Sites: **Mountain Railways of India** and **Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus)**.

- The Mountain Railways of India includes three railways: Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (1999); Nilgiri Mountain Railway (2005); & Kalka Shimla Railway (2008).

India recorded Highest ever annual FDI inflow of USD 83.57bn in FY22.

i. In accordance with the data released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), India's foreign direct investments (FDI) inflow was increased by 1.95% on-year to the highest ever annual figure of USD83.57 billion in the FY22 (2021-2022) as compared to \$81.97 billion in FY21. This constituted an 'endorsement' of India's status among global investors.

ii. In India, **Singapore** is the top investing country with 27% of the equity inflows. It is followed by the United States (US) with inflows at 18% and Mauritius at 16% in FY22.

iii. Among states, **Karnataka** is the top recipient state for another year i.e. FY22 with 38% share of the total FDI equity inflows which were maximum in the computer software and hardware sector (35%), automobile industry (20%), and education (12%). It is followed by **Maharashtra** at 26% and **Delhi** at 14%.



International

Pop-up Airport Air One – World’s First Airport for Drones & Flying Cars Opened in UK

The Coventry City Council and Urban-Air Port Limited, United Kingdom (UK) based Start-up partnered to set up the world’s first Urban airport Pop-up **Air-One**, for electric drones and flying cars in the city of Coventry, England. The aim of the project is to reduce Urban congestion and Pollution. It’s designed for zero-emission electric drones and air taxis and the airport itself is powered by hydrogen fuel cells.



- A first-of-its-kind hub, Air-One will serve as a blueprint for over 200 ‘vertiports’ being planned around the world, including the West Midlands, London, Los Angeles, Australia, South Korea, France, Germany, Scandinavia, and Southeast Asia

Key Points:

- i. The Pop up Air-One airport is designed to be fully autonomous and to integrate with electric vehicles to create a completely sustainable public transport network. The airport is equipped with vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) aircraft to make them feasible for rapid urban transport.
- ii. The whole project in Coventry took a minimal time of around 15 months from planning to completion.
- iii. The Pop-up Air-one is one of the first hundreds of airports planned. The airport is itself powered by the Hydrogen Fuel Cells.

Note:

- i. Hyundai’s air mobility arm has showcased a full size model of its S-A1 air taxi at the airport.

Highlights of PM Narendra Modi visit to Germany, Denmark and France

The Prime Minister (PM) of India Narendra Modi visited three European Nations viz. Germany, Denmark and France which marked his first visit abroad in 2022.

- i. In the first leg of his visit, he visited Germany, and held bilateral talks with Olaf Scholz, Federal Chancellor of Germany in Berlin to enhance and intensify cooperation in a broad range of areas. They also exchanged views on regional and global matters of mutual interest.
- ii. After the Germany visit, PM Narendra Modi visited Copenhagen, Denmark



at the invitation of its PM Ms. Mette Frederiksen. There he participated in the 2nd India-Nordic Summit which was hosted by Denmark. He also addressed the Indian community and interacted with Denmark's Royal Family i.e. Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II.

iii. PM Narendra Modi paid a brief visit in Paris to meet Mr. Emmanuel Macron, President of France as both nations are celebrating 75 years of their diplomatic relations in 2022.

About Germany:

Capital – Berlin

President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier

UN Approves Czech Republic To Replace Russia On UN Human Rights Council

The U.N. General Assembly (UNGA) elected Czech Republic to replace Russia in the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) through voting process, following Russia's suspension over allegations of horrific rights violations by Russian soldiers in Ukraine.



Replacement Process through Election

i. Russia was suspended from the UNHRC in April 2022 by a vote in the General Assembly due to Russia's aggression of "gross and systematic violations and abuses of human rights" on Ukraine.

ii. So a vacant seat arises in East European Countries Representation in UNHRC.

UNGA's 180 members of the 193 members deposited their secret ballot vote.

- The result was 157 countries in favour of the Czech Republic and 23 abstentions.

iii. Though Moscow was suspended from the rights body, it would have been allowed to participate due to its observer status.

iv. Russia has already suspended from multiple international organisations such as UN Women and the U.N. children's agency United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, UNICEF. It was also suspended from the World Tourism Organization.

About UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

It is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe.

"Sky Bridge 721": World's Longest Suspension Bridge in Czech Republic

On 13th May 2022, The world's longest suspension footbridge named "Sky Bridge 721", was opened in Dolní

Morava, Czech Republic for tourists. The bridge connects two mountain ridges and hangs 95 metres above the valley of the Mlýnský Stream.



- The Sky Bridge 721, 721 metres (2365 feet) long and 1.2-metre-wide, was constructed at a cost of 200 million crowns (around USD 8.4 million).
- Prior to Sky Bridge 721, the title of the world's longest suspension footbridge was held by Portugal's 516-metre Arouca Bridge.
- Sky Bridge 721 is 154 metres longer than the current Guinness World Record holder suspension footbridge, the Baglung Parbat Footbridge (567 metres) in Gandaki Province, Nepal.

Dolní Morava, situated on the Czech border with Poland, is a vacation spot that's also home to ski slopes, an alpine roller coaster purporting to be the second-longest in Europe, a mountaintop restaurant and an attraction called the Sky Walk, a curved structure with a wooden walkway

India remains World's Top Remittance Recipient in 2021: World Bank

i. The World Bank (WB) has released a report titled 'Migration and Development Brief 36, May 2022: A War in a Pandemic: Implications of the Ukraine crisis and COVID-19 on Global Governance of Migration and Remittance Flows'.

ii. In accordance to this, India has emerged as the largest remittance receiving country globally in 2021 worth **\$89.4 billion** as compared to **\$82.73 billion** in 2020.

iii. It is followed by **Mexico** at 2nd place and **China** at 3rd, **Philippines** (4th), and **Egypt** (5th).

iv. Though India retained its position as the top recipient of remittances globally, however, in comparison to its economy, remittances accounted for only **3% of GDP** (Gross Domestic Product) in 2021.

About World Bank (WB):

President– David Malpass

Headquarters– Washington, DC, United States

Member Countries– 189(including India)



India overtakes Germany to become 4th largest vehicle market

According to the report released by Organisation Internationale des Constructeurs d'Automobiles (OICA), India has surpassed Germany to become



4th largest vehicle market in the world.

- The 1st was occupied by China, followed by the US and Japan.

Key Points:

- i. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, India sold 3,759,398 vehicles in 2021 as compared to 2,973,319 vehicles in Germany. This is almost 26 percent of growth and only country to register double digit growth among top 5 countries.
- ii. India is expected to become the third largest Vehicle market by 2025, However it requires India to surpass Japan which sold 4,448,340 units in 2021.
- iii. The personal mobility space is around 33 vehicles per 1,000 which is one of the lowest compared to the developed market.
- iv. The top most position is secured by China however the automobile sales remained stagnant. Similarly, the United States of America (USA) too reported 4 percent growth.
- v. Thirdly, Japan holds the 3rd position however it shrunk compared to both 2020 and 2019.

Overview of Indian PM Narendra Modi Visit to Japan for QUAD Leaders' Meeting 2022

- i. On May 23-24, 2022, the Prime Minister (PM) of India Narendra Modi paid a visit to Japan at the invitation of the Japanese PM Fumio Kishida to participate in the 4th and 2nd in-person QUAD (Quadrilateral) Leaders' Meeting 2022 in Tokyo, Japan on 24 May 2022 along with the United States (US) President Joseph Robinette Biden Jr.; and PM of Australia, Anthony Norman Albanese.
- ii. The QUAD countries are Australia, India, Japan, and the US.
- iii. The meeting saw the announcement of a **Quad Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Package (Q-CHAMP)** with '**mitigation**' and '**adaptation**' as its two themes.
- iv. The QUAD nations also announced the launch of 'Quad Fellowship program' which will be offered by the Quad to students from four countries. It is a philanthropic initiative led by the **Schmidt Futures**.



About QUAD:

The group was established shortly after the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004 to coordinate humanitarian assistance. It fell into obscurity for over a decade until 2017, when the Quad members decided to step up joint military exercises.

- The first QUAD Leaders' Meeting held in March 2021, in-person Summit in Washington D.C., US in September 2021; and virtual meeting in March 2022.

US Overtakes China as India's Largest Trading Partner in FY22

The **United States (US)** has surpassed China to become **India's top trading partner in 2021-22**, showing the growth of India-US economic ties.

According to data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, bilateral trade between the United States and India reached USD 119.42 billion in 2021-22, up from USD 80.51 billion in 2020-21.

Backdrop:

i. Exports to the United States soared to USD 76.11 billion in 2021-22, up from USD 51.62 billion in 2020-21, while imports increased to USD 43.31 billion in 2021-22, up from USD 29 billion the 2020-21 fiscal year.

ii. In the most recent fiscal year (FY22), exports to China climbed considerably to USD 21.25 billion, up from USD 21.18 billion in 2020–21, while imports increased from around USD 65.21 billion in 2020-21 to USD 94.16 billion.

- The trade deficit widened from USD 44 billion in 2020-21 to USD 72.91 billion in 2021-22.

India's Trade Surplus with the United States (US)

i. The US is one of the few countries with whom India enjoys a trade surplus. India had a trade surplus of USD 32.8 billion with the US in 2021-22.

ii. Bilateral trade between India & the US is anticipated to grow in the future years, according to trade experts, as both countries deepen their economic ties.

- India has joined a US-led initiative to establish the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), which will help to strengthen economic ties.

India's Top Trading Partners 2021-22

i. From 2013–14 to 2017–18, and again in 2020–21, China was India's most important trading partner. Prior to China, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was India's largest trading partner.

ii. In 2021-22, the UAE is India's third largest trading partner with USD 72.9 billion. It is followed by Saudi Arabia (USD 42.85 billion) as 4th, Iraq (USD 34.33 billion) as 5th, & Singapore (USD 30 billion) as its 6th largest trading partner.

Defence

NATO Exercises – Defender Europe 2022 and Swift Response 2022 Began in Poland and 8 Other Countries

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) exercise, Defender Europe 2022 (**DE22**) and Swift Response 2022 (**SR22**) began on May 01, 2022 aimed at building preparedness and interoperability between Allies and partners of the United States (US) and NATO.

- The exercises are scheduled from May 01 to May 27, 2022.
- **Host Countries:** The exercise began in Poland and will be held in 8 other countries.
- Exercise Swift Response is an annual U.S. Army Europe and Africa multinational training exercise that takes place this year in Eastern Europe, the Arctic High North, Baltics, and Balkans.



Key Points:

- The Military exercise will involve approximately 18,000 soldiers from over 20 countries that are taking place in the territory of Poland and eight other countries.
- The 5th Corps of the US Armed Forces is responsible for the command of the exercises.
- During the exercise, the troops ability to cooperate in a joint combat operation will be put to test using various training episodes including long-distance tactical marches, bridging rivers and live fire training.
- The Joint combined exercises will strengthen the security of the NATO Eastern Flank through training in accordance with NATO standards and procedures. They also allow for the adaptation of these rules and standards to meet new and emerging challenges at the contemporary battlefield in order to deter a potential aggressor.

IAF Successfully Test Fired First Extended Range Version of BrahMos Missile from Sukhoi

On May 12 2022, The Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully test fired the **first** ever **Extended Range** Version of **BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile** (Air launched version) from Sukhoi Su-30 MKI fighter jet on the designated target in Bay of Bengal region.

Mechanism of firing:

- The missile is gravity dropped from the fuselage of the Su-30 MKI fighter jet, and the two-stage missile's engine is then fired up and it propels towards



the intended target at the sea.

Key Points:

- i.**The range of the Extended range version of BrahMos missile is around **350 kilometres** (km) from its original 290 km.
- ii.**The BrahMos missile achieved a supersonic speed of 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound.
- iii.**The achievement is due to the dedicated and synergetic efforts of the IAF, Indian Navy, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL) and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- iv.**The project was conceived to enhance the IAF's capability to strike from large stand-off ranges on any target on sea or land.
- v.**Stand-off range missiles are those which are launched at a distance sufficient to allow the attacking party to evade defensive fire expected from the target area.

Defence Minister Launches Indigenous Frontline Warships INS Surat & INS Udaygiri

On May 17, 2022, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched two Indian Navy frontline warships—the Indian Naval Ship (s) (INS)—‘**INS Surat**’ & ‘**INS Udaygiri**’—at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (previously known as Mazagon Docks Limited) (MDL) in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

INS Surat is the fourth and last Guided Missile Destroyer of the ‘**Project 15B**’ class, whereas INS Udaygiri is the second Stealth Frigate of the ‘**Project 17A**’ class. The Directorate of Naval Design (DND) of the Indian Navy designed and built both warships indigenously at MDL in Mumbai, Maharashtra.



Project 15B (P15B) & Project 17A (P17A)

- i.**The **Project 15B (P15B)** class of ships are the Indian Navy's next-generation stealth guided missile destroyers, which are being built at the MDL. They are the successors to the Project 15A (P15A) (Kolkata Class) Destroyers, which are more weapon-intensive.
- ii.**The **Project 17A (P17A)** Frigates are warships that are successors of the Project 17 (P17) (Shivalik Class) Frigates, with enhanced stealth features, advanced weapons and sensors, and platform management systems.

INS Surat & INS Udaygiri

- i.**INS Surat – the fourth ship of Project 15B Destroyers heralds a significant makeover of the P15A (Kolkata Class) Destroyers and is named after the city ‘Surat’ – the commercial capital of the state of Gujarat and also

the second largest commercial hub of western India after Mumbai.

ii.INS Udaygiri – the third ship of P17A frigates, which are followed on of the P17 Frigates (Shivalik Class). It is named after the Udaygiri mountain range in Andhra Pradesh, following the custom of naming Indian frigates after mountain ranges in India.

Appointments or Resign/Retired

IBM Chairman & CEO Arvind Krishna Elected to the Board of Directors of Federal Reserve Bank of New York

Arvind Krishna, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of IBM (International Business Machines Corporation) was elected to the Board of Directors of the **Federal Reserve Bank of New York (New York Fed)**, New York, United States of America (USA), to fill the vacancy in the office for the remaining period of a 3-year term which ends on **31st December 2023**.

- He has been elected as a **Class B director**, representing the public with due but not exclusive consideration to the interests of agriculture, commerce, industry, service, labour and consumers.



About Arvind Krishna:

i. Arvind Krishna has been serving as the Chairman and CEO of IBM Since January 2021 succeeding IBM Executive Chairman Virginia M. Rometty. Previously, he served as the CEO and a member of the board of IBM.

ii. He also holds 15 patents and founded the security software business of IBM.

iii. He has also served as the senior vice president of Cloud and Cognitive Software,

iv. He is a member of the Business Council, the Business Roundtable and serves as Co-Chair of the World Economic Forum (WEF)'s Global artificial intelligence (AI) Action Alliance (GAIA).

About Federal Reserve Bank of New York (New York Fed):

Federal Reserve Bank of New York, within the Federal Reserve System, is one of the 12 Regional Reserve Banks.

The Federal system is an independent governmental entity created in 1913 to serve as the central bank of the United States.

President & CEO– John C. Williams

Headquarters– New York, United States of America (USA)

Former Petroleum Secretary Tarun Kapoor Appointed as PM's Adviser

Tarun Kapoor (IAS officer of 1987 batch, Himachal Pradesh cadre), who retired as the Secretary to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) was appointed as the **adviser** to Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi. He was appointed to the post initially for a period of **2 years** from the date



of joining or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

- The position of PM’s adviser was vacant since February following the retirement of IAS officer Bhaskar Khulbe.

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Tarun Kapoor along with 2 other appointments: Atish Chandra (a 1994-batch IAS officer but from the Bihar cadre) and Hari Ranjan Rao (a 1994-batch IAS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre) were appointed to the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) on the Additional Secretary level.

Marcos Jr. Wins 2022 Presidential Election in Philippines

Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Junior, a son of late Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos claims the victory in 2022 Presidential Election of Philippines with more than 30.8 million votes. A win would return the Marcos dynasty to power. Hundreds gathered to protest the results of the election.



Presidential Election in Philippines

i. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Leni Robredo are the president and vice president candidates in the election.

ii. Both the candidates promised for economic recovery following the pandemic.

iii. Along with the two main candidates, eight other candidates, including former boxing star Manny Pacquiao, Manila Mayor Isko Moreno and former national police chief Sen. Panfilo Lacson, have lagged far behind in voter preference surveys.

Philippines

An archipelagic country in Southeast Asia.

National Anthem: Lupang Hinirang

Capital City: Manila

Currency – Philippine peso

Deepika Padukone 1st Indian to become Louis Vuitton House Ambassador

Louis Vuitton Malletier, commonly known as **Louis Vuitton(LV)**, is a French luxury fashion house that has appointed Indian Actress Deepika Padukone as its House Ambassador. She becomes the first Indian to hold the position of House Ambassador for Louis Vuitton.



- The Other Louis Vuitton House Ambassador includes Hollywood's Emma Stone and China's leading actor, Zhou Dongyu.

Note: Louis Vuitton is owned by Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE, commonly known as LVMH or Louis Vuitton.

Key Points:

- The announcement comes timed with the launch of the Louis Vuitton Dauphine bag campaign.
- In 2020, Deepika Padukone became the first Indian actor to feature in Louis Vuitton's pre-fall 2020 campaign.
- In April 2022, she was chosen to be part of the 9-member jury presided by French actor Vincent Lindon for the 75th Festival De Cannes (75th Cannes Film Festival).

President of India Appoints Nongmeikapam K Singh as Acting CJ of Gauhati HC

President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, has appointed Justice Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh (**N Kotiswar Singh**), the senior-most judge of the Gauhati High Court (**HC**), as the acting Chief Justice (**CJ**) of the **Gauhati HC** in Assam. The appointment was made by the President in the exercise of the power conferred by **Article 223 of the Constitution of India**.



- Justice N Kotiswar Singh succeeds **Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia**, who has been appointed as Supreme Court Judge.
- Justice N Kotiswar Singh will perform the duties of CJ of Gauhati HC with effect from the date Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia relinquishes the charge as CJ of the Gauhati HC.

About Justice Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh (N Kotiswar Singh):

- Justice N Kotiswar Singh, hailing from Imphal, Manipur.
- He was designated as Senior Advocate by Gauhati HC in 2008 and as Advocate General of the State of Manipur from 2007 till his elevation to the Bench in 2011.
- He was made an Additional Judge of Gauhati HC in 2011 and a Judge in 2012.
- He served as the Judge of the Manipur High Court from 2013 and was later appointed to perform the duties of the office of CJ of the HC of Manipur from July 2017 to May 2018.
- He was appointed to perform the duties of CJ of Gauhati HC from September 2020 to January 2021.

Appointment of Judges of Supreme Court of India:

- On 9th May 2022, Gauhati High Court Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia and Gujarat High Court judge Jamshed Burjor Pardiwala were sworn in as the Judge of the Supreme Court.

ii. Chief Justice of India (CJI), Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana (N.V. Ramana) administered the oath of office to Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia and Justice Jamshed Burjor Pardiwala.

iii. The appointment was notified on 7th May 2022.

Supreme Court's 5-member collegium headed by Chief Justice of India NV Ramana recommended the elevation of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Jamshed Burjor Pardiwala as Supreme Court Judge.

iv. With the addition of two judges, the Supreme Court will start functioning at its full strength of 34 (including CJI) from 9th May 2022.

Sanctioned strength of Supreme Court of India:

i. In August 2019, The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha.

ii. The bill amends the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956, which fixes the maximum number of judges in the Supreme Court at 30 judges (excluding CJI).

iii. The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2019 increases this number from 30 to 33 (excluding CJI).

Ranil Wickremesinghe Sworn in Sri Lanka's New Prime Minister

Gotabaya Rajapaksa, President of Sri Lanka, has appointed Ranil Wickremesinghe, leader of the United National Party (opposition party) as the new Prime Minister (PM) of Sri Lanka, following the resignation of his predecessor Mahinda Rajapaksa (the president's older brother), who resigned from his post of PM of Sri Lanka amid mass protest over the economic crisis.

Mahinda Rajapaksa's resignation automatically dissolved the Cabinet.



- On 12th May 2022, Ranil Wickremesinghe was sworn in as the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa at a ceremony in the president's office.
- Previously, Ranil Wickremesinghe has served as the PM of Sri Lanka for 5 times since 1993.

About Ranil Wickremesinghe:

i. Ranil Wickremesinghe (73-year-old), a lawyer by profession, was first elected to the Parliament in 1977. He has been the leader of the United National Party since 1993.

ii. He has served as a Member of Parliament (MP) representing the United National Party from 1978 to date for a continuous period of 28 years.

iii. During his 4 decades-long political careers, he has lost 2 presidential contests.

Dr. Manik Saha Sworn in As the New CM Of Tripura

On May 15, 2022, **Dr. Manik Saha**, the state president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of Tripura and a Rajya Sabha member, was sworn in as the **Chief Minister (CM) of Tripura**.

- He was sworn in as the 12th CM of Tripura, and Governor Satyadeo Narayan Arya administered the oath of office to him in the Raj Bhawan in Agartala, Tripura.
- His appointment followed the sudden resignation of his predecessor, Biplab Kumar Dev, who took office as the BJP's first CM in Tripura in 2018.



About Dr Manik Saha:

- i. Dr. Saha graduated from Lucknow's King George Medical College and was a Professor of Dental Surgery by profession.
- ii. Before joining the BJP in 2016, he was a member of the opposition Congress party.
- iii. In 2018, he was appointed as the state BJP president.
- iv. Dr. Saha was elected to the Rajya Sabha (upper house) in the biennial elections held in April 2022. He was the first BJP member of the Rajya Sabha from Tripura.

Rajiv Kumar Assumes Office as 25th Chief Election Commissioner

On May 15 2022, The Former Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar assumed charge as 25th Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), replacing the Incumbent Sushil Chandra who retired on May 14 2022.

- Rajiv Kumar's major task will be to hold and oversee the President and the Vice-President elections, which are due to be conducted in July-August 2022.

About Rajiv Kumar:

- i. Rajiv Kumar is a retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of 1984 batch.
- ii. He held posts like Chairman of Public Services Enterprises Selection Board, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India and also as Election Commissioner in the Election Commission of India (ECI) since September 2020
- iii. He retired from the IAS in February 2020 as the Union Finance Secretary.



Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan Becomes President of UAE

His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan (popularly known as MBZ) has been unanimously elected President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) by the Federal Supreme Council. He is also the Ruler of Abu Dhabi (UAE).

- According to the Ministry of Presidential Affairs (UAE), he will succeed the late Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, former President of the UAE, and his appointment is made in accordance with Article 51 of the Constitution.



The Federal Supreme Council made the decision at a meeting held at Al Mushrif Palace in Abu Dhabi (UAE), which was chaired by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister, and Ruler of Dubai.

About Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan:

- i. He was born on March 11, 1961, and is the third son of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.
- ii. He is the half-brother of the former president Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and has been the UAE's de facto ruler for years, specifically since Khalifa suffered a stroke in 2014.
- iii. Sheikh Mohammed previously served as the crown prince of Abu Dhabi, one of the seven city-states that make up the UAE.
- iv. He played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi and has led significant conservation efforts in the UAE and globally to protect falcons and houbara bustards.

Note:

- This is only the third time the UAE has selected a president since its independence in 1971.
- The most recent was in 2004, when Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan succeeded his and Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan's father, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, a month after his death in 2004.

Former RBI Deputy Governor SS Mundra Appointed as Chairman of BSE Ltd

On May 17 2022, The BSE (Formerly Bombay Stock Exchange) Limited appointed **Subhash Sheoratan Mundra (SS Mundra)**, Public Interest Director, BSE as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the company. Mundra retired as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in July 2017 after completing a stint of



three years.

- He replaced the incumbent Justice Vikramajit Sen who was appointed on 19th May, 2016.

About Subhash Sheoratan Mundra:

i.In the banking sector he has rich experience of 40 years holding various important positions such as Executive Director Union Bank of India, Chief Executive of Bank of Baroda (European Operations) among others.

ii.In July 2014, he superannuated as Chairman and Managing Director of Bank of Baroda.

iii.In January 2018 he was appointed as Public Interest Director of the BSE Limited.

iv.He also served as RBI's nominee on the Financial Stability Board (G20 Forum) and its various committees.

Mundra was also the Vice-chair of OECD's International Network on Financial Education (INFE).

About BSE Limited:

Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra

Managing Director & CEO – Ashishkumar Chauhan

Founded – 1875

Nidhi Chibber Appointed CBSE Chief, Vivek Kumar Dewangen To Be CMD of REC Ltd

Senior IAS officer Nidhi Chibber has been appointed as the chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary to the government of India by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.



- Nidhi Chibber, a 1994 batch Indian Administrative Service officer of Chhattisgarh cadre, is currently Additional Secretary, Ministry of Heavy Industries.

According to a recent top-level reshuffle by the Government of India, a total of 17 joint secretary and Additional Secretary-level officers have been appointed to different posts in the central government departments and organisations .

i. Vivek Kumar Dewangen, a 1993 batch IAS officer of Manipur cadre, has been named Chairman and Managing Director, **REC Ltd.**, (formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited) Ministry of Power. Earlier he was Additional Secretary in the Ministry of power.

ii. S Gopalakrishnan, Additional Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), has been appointed as Additional Secretary, department of health and family welfare.

iii. Rakesh Sarwal, Additional Secretary, NITI Aayog will be Managing Director, National Waqf Development Corporation Ltd., Ministry of Minority Affairs.

iv. Aditi Das Rout, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development has been promoted as Additional Secretary.

- Committee and Pattanaik was an Adviser in the DEPR.

Anthony Norman Albanese Sworn in As New Prime Minister of Australia

On May 23, 2022, **Anthony Norman Albanese** sworn in as 31st **Prime Minister (PM) of Australia** by Governor-General David Hurley at a ceremony in Canberra, Australia, ahead of the Quad Summit 2022 in Tokyo, Japan.

PM Anthony Albanese's center-left Labor Party of Australia defeated previous PM Scott Morrison's conservative coalition in Australia's federal election in 2022. The conservative coalition had been in power under three prime ministers for 9 years.



- In Australia's 121-year history, he is the first candidate for Prime Minister with a "non-Anglo Celtic" background.

Highlight: Anthony Albanese was sworn in alongside four key cabinet members. The members include: Penny Wong, Australia's first Foreign Minister born outside the country; Richard Marles, the new Deputy Prime Minister & Employment Minister; Jim Chalmers, the Treasurer; & Katy Gallagher, the Attorney-General & Finance Minister.

Penny Wong, is the first Asian-born (Malaysia) person to hold an Australian cabinet position and She is also Australia's first openly gay female parliamentarian.

About Anthony Albanese:

i. Anthony was born in Sydney, Australia, in 1963. He earned a Bachelor of Economics degree from the University of Sydney.

ii. He was sworn in as Australia's first federal infrastructure minister in 2007.

iii. In 2013, Anthony was appointed Deputy Prime Minister of Australia.

iv. He was unanimously elected as new Leader of the Australian Labor Party in 2019.

About Australia:

Capital City – Canberra

Currency – Australian dollar (AUD)

Vinai Kumar Saxena Appointed as 22nd LG of Delhi, Replacing Anil Baijal

On May 23 2022, The President of India, Ram NathKovind, appointed **Vinai Kumar Saxena** as the **22nd** Lieutenant Governor (**LG**) of the National Capital Territory of **Delhi** (NCT-Delhi). Saxena replaced the Incumbent LG Anil Baijal, who resigned due to ‘Personal Reasons’.



About Vinai Kumar Saxena:

- i.** Vinai Kumar Saxena hails from Uttar Pradesh and he is the first corporate man ever selected for such a gubernatorial post and is a well-known name in the Indian corporate and social sector with over three decades of vast experience.
- ii.** Vinai Kumar Saxena is the current Chairman of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), an organisation under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSMEs). He was appointed in October 2015.
- iii.** In March 2021, he was appointed by the Central government as a member of the national committee to commemorate 75 years of India’s independence, this committee is headed by the Prime Minister of India.
- iv.** In November 2020, he was nominated as a member of the high-powered Padma Awards Selection Committee for the year 2021 by the Government of India.
- v.** Saxena joined the JK Group in Rajasthan as an assistant officer in 1984 and in various capacities for a period of 11 years.
- vi.** In 1991, he founded the National Council for Civil Liberties (NCCL), a non-profit Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) with its headquarters in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. NCCL is recognised by the Ministry of Law and Justice.

About National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCT):

Chief Minister – ArvindKejriwal

Wildlife Sanctuary – AsolaBhatti Wildlife Sanctuary

Zoological Park – National Zoological Park

PM Headed Inter-State Council Reconstituted; Amit Shah Chairman of Standing Committee

The Union Government has reconstituted the **Inter-State Council** with the **Prime Minister** of India, NarendraModi as its Chairman along with six Union Ministers as members and Ten Union Ministers as permanent invitees.



- In a separate notification the Union Government also reconstituted the **Standing Committee** of the Inter-State Council with the Union **Home Minister** Amit Shah as its Chairman.

Composition of Inter-State Council:

i.The Inter-State Council comprises –

Chairman – Prime Minister Of India

Members:

- Chief Ministers of all the State and Union Territories with legislative assemblies and Administrators or Lieutenant Governors of those States without Legislative assemblies.
- Six Union Ministers as members.
- Ten Union Ministers as Permanent Invitees.

ii.The union ministers who were made members of the council are – Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, NirmalaSitharaman, Narendra Singh Tomar, Virendra Kumar, Hardeep Singh Puri,

iii.Union Ministers as permanent invitees are NitinGadkari, S Jaishankar, ArjunMunda, PiyushGoyal, DhamendraPradhan, Pralhad Joshi, AshwiniVaishnaw, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, KirenRijiju and BhupenderYadav.

iv.If the President issues a proclamation under the **Article 356 (President's rule)** of the Constitution in relation to any State, the Governor of that State shall be invited to attend the meetings of the Council.

Mandate:

i.The Constitution of India in **Article 263**, established the Inter-State Council, with the mandate to promote and support cooperative federalism in the country.

ii.Also it actively organises regular meetings between the Council and Zonal Councils.

iii.It also facilitates consideration of all pending and emerging issues of the centre-state and inter-state relations by the zonal councils and inter-state councils and develop a sound system of monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the inter-state council and zonal councils.

Composition of Standing Committee of Inter-State Council:

i.The Committee Comprises –

Chairman – Union Home Minister Amit Shah

Members –

- Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh
- Union Ministers – NirmalaSitharaman, Narendra Singh Tomar, Virendra Kumar and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

WHO DG TedrosAdhanomGhebreyesus Re-elected for the Second Term

The World Health Organisation (WHO) member states has re-elected **Dr TedrosAdhanomGhebreyesus** for a second 5 year term as the **Director-General** (DG) of WHO. His new mandate as DG will officially commence on August 16 2022. His re-election was confirmed during the 75th World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva, Switzerland.



- Dr TedrosAdhanomGhebreyesus was first elected as DG of WHO in 2017.

About Dr TedrosAdhanomGhebreyesus:

- i. TedrosAdhanomGhebreyesus is an Ethiopian public health researcher and first African to hold the DG post.
- ii. During his first term, Dr Tedros instituted a wide-ranging Transformation of the WHO, aimed at increasing the Organisation's efficiency driving impact at country level to promote healthier lives, protect more people in emergencies and increase equitable access to health.
- iii. He also guided WHO's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, outbreaks of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the health impacts of multiple other humanitarian crises.
- iv. Before joining WHO, he served as Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ethiopia from 2012–2016 and as Minister of Health, Ethiopia from 2005–2012.
- v. He had also served as chair of the Board of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; as chair of the Roll Back Malaria (RBM) Partnership Board; and as co-chair of the Board of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health.

Note:

- i. As per the World Health Assembly rules and procedures a Director-General can be re-appointed only once.

About World Health Organisation (WHO):

Director-General – TedrosAdhanomGhebreyesus (Ethiopia)

Headquarters – Geneva, Switzerland

Indian Women Boxer LovlinaBorgohain elected as Chairman and a Voting Member for IBA's Athletes Committee

As per the International Boxing Association (IBA), India's Tokyo 2020 Olympics Bronze medallist **LovlinaBorgohain** has been selected as the Chairman and a voting member on the Board of Directors (BoD) for the IBA's Athletes Committee.

- The term of office for the newly elected Athletes' Committee will be until the World Boxing Championships in 2025.
- Shiva Thapa (IND) was appointed as vice chair of the IBA's Athletes Committee.

Key Points:

i. During the election held at the 2022 Women's World Championships Lovlina Borgohain received the highest number of votes.

ii. As a Chairman and a voting member, she can promote Indian boxing, especially women boxing to other boxers of the world.

iii. In October 2021, the Indian male boxer **Shiva Thapa** has also been elected as a member of the IBA Athletes Committee following the election held during the 2021 IBA Men's World Championships.

iv. The Duo were also under the Sports Authority of India's Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), which was formulated in 2014 with the aim to identify, groom and prepare potential medal prospects for Olympics.

About International Boxing Association (IBA) Athletes Committee:

IBA Athletes' Commission is composed of 10 boxers, with at least one from each continental confederation.

Chairman – Oleksandr Khyzhniak (Ukrainian boxer)

Vice Chairman – Irma Testa (Italian boxer)

About International Boxing Association (IBA):

The International Boxing Association (IBA), previously known as the Association Internationale de Boxe Amateur, is an independent sport organisation that sanctions amateur boxing matches and awards world and subordinate championships.

Headquarters – Lausanne, Switzerland

President – Umar Kremlev (Russia)

Honours/ Awards

NASA's Cynthia Rosenzweig Receives 2022 World Food Prize for Her Research Climate Crisis and Food Production

On May 5, 2022, The Des Moines-based World Food Prize Foundation has conferred the **World Food Prize 2022** to National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) **Cynthia Rosenzweig**, an American agronomist and climatologist, in recognition of her modelling of the climate crisis' impact on food production



- The 2022 World Food Prize Laureate was announced by Barbara Stinson, President of the World Food Prize Foundation during a ceremony hosted by the United States(US) Department of State.

Key Points:

i. Her modelling work has provided a foundation for decision-makers around the world to create strategies to mitigate climate change and adapt our food systems to a changing planet, which has helped communities worldwide address the consequences of Earth's changing climate.

About World Food Prize:

- i. World Food Prize was founded by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate(1970), Norman E Borlaug in 1986.
- ii. The inaugural world Food Prize was presented to Dr Mankombu Sambasivan Swaminathan of India in 1987.
- iii. According to the World Food Prize Foundation, the World Food Prize is a prestigious International award conceived as the "Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture".

About Cynthia Rosenzweig:

- i. Cynthia Rosenzweig is a senior research scientist and head of the Climate Impacts Group at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS), New York, United States America(USA).
- ii. Her research focuses on improving models and assessments of how climate change will affect agriculture and the food supply in the future. In addition, she uses data from NASA satellites and models to study agricultural regions around the world and how they are changing.

IACC's 6th Entrepreneur Leadership Awards 2022: Dr Bina Modi, Chairperson, Modi Enterprises Receives Woman Transforming India Award

Dr Bina Modi, Chairperson of Modi Enterprises has been honoured with the **Woman Transforming India Award** at the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce(IACC) **6th Entrepreneur & Leadership Awards 2022**.



Jyotiraditya Scindia Union Minister, Ministry of Civil Aviation(MCA) presented the award to Dr Bina Modi.

- She is the President and Managing Director of Godfrey Phillips India Ltd and Chairperson and Managing Director of Indofil Industries Limited.
- She has also founded and built several successful brands including Bina Fashions, Ego Chain of Specialty Restaurants, along with luxury and lifestyle businesses.

Priyanka Mohite Becomes First Indian Woman To Scale Five Peaks Above 8,000m

Priyanka Mohite has become the first Indian woman to scale five peaks above 8,000 metres (m) after she climbed the third highest mountain in the world **Mount Kanchenjunga (8,586 m)**, situated in the eastern Himalayas on the border between Sikkim state, northeastern India, and eastern Nepal on May 5, 2022.



Other Peaks Scaled:

i.In 2013, She climbed the world's highest peak **Mount Everest (8,849 m)** located in the Mahalangur Himal sub-range of the Himalayas between the borders of China and Nepal.

ii.In 2016, She climbed **Mount Makalu (8,485 m)** the fifth highest mountain in the world, located in the Mahalangur Himalayas southeast of Mount Everest, on the border between Nepal and Tibet Autonomous Region, China, and Mount Kilimanjaro (5,895 metres) located in Tanzania, Africa.

iii.In 2018, She Scaled **Mount Lhotse (8,516 m)** the fourth highest mountain in the world, located between Tibet and the Khumbu region of Nepal.

iv.In April 2021, she had scaled **Mount Annapurna (8,091 m)**, the 10th highest mountain peak in the world located at the Gandaki Province, north-central Nepal and had become the first Indian woman climber to achieve the feat.

About Priyanka Mohite:

i.Priyanka Mohite was from Satara District of Maharashtra, started to scale mountains in the Sahyadri range of Maharashtra as a teenager.

ii.In 2012, she scaled Bandarpunch, a mountain massif of the Garhwal division of the Himalayas, in Uttarakhand and In 2015, she scaled Mount Menthosa (6,443 m) which is the second-highest peak in the Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh.

iv.In 2021, The Government of India(GoI) awarded her with the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2020 for outstanding contribution in the field of land adventure..

2022 Pulitzer Prizes; Indians Adnan Abidi, Sanna Irshad Mattoo, Amit Dave, & Late Danish Siddiqui of Reuters awarded in Journalism

On 9th May 2022, the winners of the 2022 Pulitzer Prizes (106th class of Pulitzer Prize winners) in Journalism; Books, Drama and Music; and Special Citations were announced. Four Indians – Adnan Abidi, Sanna Irshad Mattoo, Amit Dave, and the late Danish Siddiqui of Reuters were awarded 2022 Pulitzer Prizes in Journalism under the Feature Photography category.



They were awarded for their images of the COVID-19 toll on India.

2022 Pulitzer Prizes in Journalism:

The Washington Post has won the 2022 Pulitzer prize in Journalism under the Public Service category for its account of the assault on Washington on 6th January 2021.

Note:

The Pulitzer Prize, administered by Columbia University in New York, United States of America(USA), is considered the most prestigious prize in US journalism which recognise the work in 15 journalism categories; seven arts categories and one special citation.

Prize: Only the winner in the Public Service category of the Journalism competition is awarded a gold medal other winners receive a **USD 15,000 cash award** and a certificate.

Nobel prize-winning Theoretical Physicist Dr Frank Wilczek Receives Templeton Prize 2022

American Theoretical physicist and author, Dr Frank Wilczek, who won the Nobel Prize (Physics) in 2004, has been awarded the Templeton Prize 2022, the world's largest individual lifetime achievement award, valued at over USD 1.3 million.



- He became the 6th Nobel laureate to receive the Templeton Prize since its inception in 1972.
- As a 2022 Templeton Prize laureate he will participate in several virtual and in-person events, including a 2022 Templeton Prize event

About Templeton Prize:

i.John Templeton established the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion (now known simply as the Templeton Prize in **1972**).

ii.This was investor Sir John Templeton's first major philanthropic venture.

iii.The inaugural Templeton Prize (1973) was presented to Mother Teresa.

About Dr Frank Wilczek:

- i. Dr Frank Wilczek is a distinguished Professor in Arizona State University's Department of Physics.
- ii. He continues to pioneer new concepts in physics, naming and developing the theories of anyons, time crystals and axions
- iii. He won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2004 for the discovery of asymptotic freedom in the theory of strong interaction. He shared the prize with David J. Gross and H. David Politzer.
- iv. He has authored several books which include, "A Beautiful Question" (2015); "The Lightness of Being" (2008); "Fundamentals" (2021)

Additional info:

Indians who have won the Templeton Prize: Pandurang Shastri Athavale (1997); Baba Amte (1990); Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan (1975).

Forbes Global 2000 List 2022: RIL tops Indian companies; Berkshire Hathaway tops globally

According to the Forbes Global 2000 List 2022, which ranks the world's largest companies using 4 metrics (sales, profits, assets, and market value), Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) led by Mukesh Ambani has ranked 53rd on the list (global) and ranked first among Indian companies.

Berkshire Hathaway, United States of America (USA) based multinational conglomerate holding company took the No. 1 spot for the first time since Forbes started publishing the Global 2000 in 2003.



Top 3 companies (global)

Rank	Company
1	Berkshire Hathaway, United States of America
2	Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), China
3	Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Saudi Aramco), Saudi Arabia

Top 5 Indian companies:

Indian Rank	Global Rank	Company
1	53	Reliance Industries Limited(RIL)
2	105	State Bank of India(SBI)
3	153	HDFC Bank Limited
4	204	ICICI Bank Limited
5	228	Oil & Natural Gas Corp. Ltd.(ONGC)

Lionel Messi Topped Forbes' Highest-Paid Athletes List For 2022

Lionel Messi, a football player from Argentina is reportedly earning pre-tax gross earnings of \$130 million a year from on-field and off-field pursuits on the Forbes' Top 10 List 2022 of the World's Highest-Paid Athletes followed by LeBron James, an American professional basketball player, and Cristiano Ronaldo, a Portuguese Professional Footballer.



- Forbes calculates the estimates based on prize money, salaries and bonuses as well as estimations of sponsorship deals and other off-field revenue streams.
- Forbes' top 10 list of the world's highest-paid athletes includes three soccer players(Football), four basketballers, one tennis legend, a professional American football league i.e National Football League (NFL) icon and a boxing champion.

TOP 10 Higher Earning Players

1	Lionel Messi	\$130 million
2	LeBron James	\$121.2 million

3	Cristiano Ronaldo	\$115 million
4	Neymar	\$95 million

India's ASHA Workers Among 6 Winners of WHO DG's Global Health Leaders Awards

On 22nd May 2022, India's one million all-women Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) workers, were honoured with the World Health Organisation (WHO) Director-General's **Global Health Leaders Award 2022** for their "crucial role" in providing direct access to healthcare facilities in rural areas and their indefatigable efforts to rein in the corona virus pandemic in the country.

- WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus announced the **6 awardees of WHO Director-General's Global Health Leaders Awards**. The award recognises the outstanding contributions to advancing global health, demonstrated leadership and commitment to regional health issues.

About ASHA Workers:

- i. ASHA in Hindi means '**Hope**', The ASHA workers are Indian government's affiliated health-care workers who are the first point of contact in rural India.
- ii. They worked to provide maternal care and immunisation for children against vaccine preventable diseases, community health care, treatment for hypertension and tuberculosis, and core areas of health promotion for nutrition, sanitation, and healthy living.
- ii. Most of them gained spotlight during the peak of the pandemic in India for conducting door-to-door checks to trace coronavirus patients.

About WHO Director-General's Global Health Leaders Awards:

- i. The awardees for the WHO Director-General's Global Health Leaders Awards were selected by the Director General himself.
- ii. The ceremony for the award, which was established in 2019, was a part of the live-streamed high-level opening session of the 75th World Health Assembly (**WHA75**) which is being held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 22-28 May 2022.

Gautam Adani, Khurram Parvez, & Karuna Nundy among 100 Most Influential People of 2022 by TIME magazine

Gautam Adani, Chairman and founder of the Adani Group, Supreme Court lawyer and public activist Karuna Nundy and Kashmiri rights activist



Khurram Parvez were among the list of 100 Most Influential People of 2022 published by TIME magazine, an American news magazine.

- The list has been divided into six categories: Icons, Pioneers, Titans, Artists, Leaders and Innovators.

Click here for the complete list of **100 Most Influential People of 2022**

Note:

The Times Magazines' annual listicle of the 100 most influential people was first published in 1999.

Key Points:

i. Gautam Adani's Adani Group is the World's 6th largest economy. Adani has been listed under the Titans category of the list.

- His profile was written by Debasish Roy Chowdhury, co-author of To Kill a Democracy: India's Passage to Despotism.

ii. Karuna Nundy is a champion of women's rights who has worked to reform the antirape laws.

- She has fought against several cases related to sexual harassment in the workplace.
- She is also fighting against the Indian Rape Law which contains a legal exemption for marital rape.
- Her profile was written by Menaka Guruswamy a senior advocate at the Supreme Court of India

iii. Khurram Parvez, Chairperson of the Asian Federation against Involuntary Disappearances. He has fought against human rights violations and injustices in the Kashmir region.

- He gives a voice to the families that lost their children to enforced disappearance, allegedly by the government of India.

Additional info:

The list also includes world leaders like President of United States of America (USA) Joe Biden, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen and famous personalities like tennis player Rafael Nadal, CEO of Apple Inc, Tim Cook and media personality Oprah Winfrey.

Geetanjali Shree Won International Booker Prize for the first Hindi Novel 'Tomb of Sand'

The 2022 International Booker Prize for Translated Fiction was awarded to **'Tomb of Sand'** written by Geetanjali Shree and translated by Daisy Rockwell. The book was originally published in Hindi as Ret Samadhi in 2018. The award was presented by Booker Prize Foundation.

- This is the first book in any Indian language to win the prestigious International Booker Prize and this is the first novel translated from Hindi to win the award.
- Geetanjali Shree is the **first Indian** to win the International Booker Prize.
- The recipients were awarded the Prize money of GBP (British pound sterling) 50,000 (USD 63,000) which will be split between the author and the translator.



Plot:

i. The novel sets in northern India, which follows the adventures of an 80-year-old protagonist, Ma, to her family's consternation, insists on travelling to Pakistan, simultaneously confronting the unresolved trauma of her teenage experiences of Partition, and re-evaluating what it means to be a mother, a daughter, a woman, a feminist.

Key Points:

- 'Tomb of Sand' is the first book of Geetanjali Shree to be published in the United Kingdom (UK) in English by Tilted Axis Press in August 2021.
- The novel was one among the 6 Shortlisted novels, which were translated to English from 11 languages and originate from 12 countries across four continents.
- This year the judges considered 135 books and for the first time in 2022.
- Judges for the 2022 International Prize are Frank Wynne; Merve Emre; Petina Gappah; Viv Groskop; and Jeremy Tiang.

About International Booker Prize and Booker Prize:

- **The International Booker Prize** was instituted in 2005 as the "Man Booker International Prize" and is awarded every year for a single book that is translated into English and published in the UK or Ireland.
- **Booker Prize** is awarded to a book/novel written in English. In 1997, Arundhati Roy became the first Indian to win the Booker Prize for her novel, "The God of Small Things."

7th Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia list 2022 Released; India Tops with 61 Entries

Forbes magazine has released the 7th edition of the **Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia List 2022**, featuring 10 categories each honouring 30 individuals under the age of 30.

The list was edited by Rana Wehbe Watson.

- The honourees on the list represent 22 countries and territories across the Asia-Pacific region.

- **India** tops the list in terms of the number of entries with **61**, followed by Singapore (34), Japan (33), Australia (32), Indonesia (30) and China (28).

Note:

The average age of the 2022 list is 26.8 and the youngest honouree on the list is 14-year old Japanese Olympics skateboarding gold-medalist Momiji Nishiya.

About the 2022 List:

i. Categories in the 30 Under 30 Asia list 2022 are The Arts (Art & Style, Food & Drink); Entertainment & Sports; Finance & Venture Capital; Media, Marketing & Advertising; Retail & Ecommerce; Enterprise Technology; Industry, Manufacturing & Energy; Healthcare & Science; Social Impact; and Consumer Technology.

ii. The honourees, Entrepreneurs and innovators, featured on the 2022 list are working towards reconnecting Asia following the disruption and isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Highlights of Indians on the list:

- **Namya Mahajan, Siddhant Sachdeva and Vishal Sunil, Co-founders of Rocket Learning**, a Non-governmental organisation (NGO) to improve reading and numeracy levels among India's 75 million underserved, low-income youngsters.
- **Trineta Haldar Gummaraju**, is one of India's first openly transgender doctors who advocates the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community.
- **Vivan Marwaha** author of the book titled "What Millennials Want"
- **Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash Jonnalagadda**, math prodigy and founder of Bhanzu, a commercial ed-tech company.
- **Shreyans Sancheti and Harish Uthayakumar**, Co-founders of Bluelearn, a social platform that allows students to learn real-world skills for free from experts.

Sports

2022 Badminton Asia Championships – India’s PV Sindhu won Bronze in Women’s Singles

On May 01, 2022, the Indian Badminton Player **Pusarla Venkata(PV) Sindhu** won the Bronze medal in Women’s Singles at the **39th edition of 2022 Badminton Asia Championships** held from April 26 to May 1, 2022 at the Muntinlupa Sports Complex in Manila, Philippines.



- The Philippines Badminton Association hosted the competition, which is sanctioned by Badminton Asia.
- The total prize money for this year’s tournament is USD 400,000.
- This is Sindhu’s second medal in the tournament; she had claimed a bronze in the 2014 Gimcheon edition.

Finals Result:

i.Men’s Singles – The Malaysian badminton player **Lee Zii Jia** won gold medal by defeating the Indonesian badminton player Jonatan Christie.

ii.Women’s Singles – The Chinese badminton player **Wang Zhiyi** won gold medal by defeating the Japanese badminton player Akane Yamaguchi.

Note:

i.Dinesh Khanna is the only Indian to win gold at the Asian Championships in 1965.

Antalya 2022 Hyundai Archery World Cup stage 1: Tarundeep Rai & Ridhi won Gold in Recurved Mixed Team

Indian archers – Padma Shri **Tarundeep Rai** and **Ridhi** has won the gold medal under the Recurve Mixed Team category at the Antalya 2022 Hyundai Archery World Cup stage 1 held from 18th to 24th April 2022 at Antalya, Turkey.

Tarundeep Rai was a part of the gold medal winning team at the 2010 Shanghai Archery World Cup.



- The Indian trio – **Abhishek Verma, Rajat Chauhan** and **Aman**

Saini has also won the Gold medal in compound men's team competition.

- This was the first team gold for both Rajat Chauhan and Aman Saini.

2nd Khelo India University Games 2021 held in Bengaluru, Karnataka: Jain University emerge Overall Champions

i. From 24th April to 3rd May 2022, the 2nd edition of Khelo India University Games (KIUG) 2021, a national level multi-sport event was hosted by the Karnataka government, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS), and Jain University, Bengaluru (Karnataka).

ii. It was held at five venues viz. Jain Global University campus, Jain Sports School, Kanteerava Stadium, Field Marshal Cariappa Hockey Stadium, and the Sports Authority of India (SAI) National Centre of Excellence.

iii. Its mascot was 'Veera', an elephant & the **Logo** of Khelo India University Games 2021 features the iconic **Vidhana Soudha building** – the Legislative House in Bengaluru – with two elephants on either side.

iv. This edition has been won by Jain (Deemed-to-be University) with 20 gold, 7 silver and 5 bronze medals.



About Ministry of Youth Affairs And Sports:

Union Minister– Anurag Singh Thakur (Constituency- Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh)

Minister of State– Nisith Pramanik (Constituency- Coochbehar, West Bengal)

Red Bull's Max Verstappen won 1st edition of Formula 1 Miami Grand Prix 2022

The Red Bull driver **Max Verstappen** (Belgian-Dutch), had won the **first edition of the Formula 1(F1) 2022 Miami Grand Prix** title, which was held from 6th to 8th May 2022 at Miami International Autodrome in Miami Gardens, Florida, United States (US).

Verstappen defeated the Ferrari driver **Charles Leclerc (Monacan)** by 3.786 seconds and pushed Charles Leclerc to the second position.



- The Miami Grand Prix event was the fifth round of the 2022 Formula One (F1) World Championship.
- Miami becomes the 11th different venue in the US to host a points-scoring round of the (Federation Internationale de l'Automobile) FIA Formula 1 World Championship, since the series was inaugurated in 1950.

Key Points:

- i. The Spanish Ferrari driver Carlos Sainz Jr. and the Mexican Red Bull driver Sergio Pérez, finished the race in third and fourth position respectively.
- ii. Miami 2022 title marks Max Verstappen's second victory in a row and third victory of the year. Previously he has won the 2022 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix in March 2022 and Emilia Romagna Grand Prix 2022 in April 2022.

Mascot, Logo, Jersey, Theme Song Launched For Khelo India Youth Games-2021

Union Sports Minister **Anurag Thakur** and Haryana Chief Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** unveiled the mascot 'Dhakad,' as well as the official emblem and jersey of the **Fourth Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2021** in Panchkula, Haryana.

- **Haryana** is set to host the 4th edition of Khelo India Youth Games from June 4 to 13, 2022 in Panchkula. The Games are being organised jointly by the Haryana government, the Union ministry of youth affairs and sports and the Sports Authority of India (SAI).

**About Khelo India Youth Game (KIYG)**

- i. To increase the possibilities of securing medals in Olympics and other International Sports Events.
- ii. KIYG are the annual national level multidisciplinary grassroots games in India held in January or February for two categories, namely under-17 years school students and under-21 college students.
- iii. Every year the best 1,000 kids will be given an annual scholarship of ₹5 lakh for 8 years to prepare them for the international sporting events.
- iv. Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Thang-Ta, Yogasana and Mallakhamba are the five new traditional games to be included in 4th KIYG.
- v. In 2021, the Central Government included Silambam under KIYG.

Team India Won Maiden 2022 BWF Thomas Cup Defeating Indonesia by 3-0 South Korea won the 2022 Uber Cup

Team India Men's Badminton won the 32nd edition of Badminton World Federation (BWF) **Thomas Cup 2022**, badminton world men's team championship, after beating the 14-time champion Indonesia by 3-0 held at the Impact Arena, in Bangkok, Thailand from May 8 to May 15 2022.

- The Third and Fourth Podium were secured by Denmark and Japan respectively.

Key Highlights:

i.In the **First Men's Singles**, the World championship bronze medallist Lakshya Sen defeated Indonesia's Anthony Sinisuka Ginting by 8-21, 21-17, 21-16 to give India a 1-0 lead.

ii.In the **First Doubles game**, the duo Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty defeated Mohammad Ahsan and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo by 18-21, 23-21, 21-19 extending India's lead to 2-0.

iii.And finally in the **Second Men's Singles**, the World championship silver medallist Kidambi Srikanth defeated Jonatan Christie by 21-15, 23-21 and secured a historic victory for India by leading 3-0.



2022 Italian Open: Novak Djokovic Won Men's Singles & His 38th Masters 1000 Title; Iga Świątek Won Women's Singles

The World no. 1 Serbian tennis player Novak Djokovic has won the 79th edition of the 2022 Internazionali BNL d'Italia of Rome title after defeating Stefanos Tsitsipas in Men's Singles by 6-0 7-6 (7-5) held at Foro Italico, Rome, Italy, between May 2 to May 15 2022.



- In the Women's Singles, **Iga Świątek** (World No. 1 by Women's Tennis Association) defeated Ons Jabeur by 6-2, 6-2 to claim her fifth tournament victory. It was also her 28th win in a row.

Key Points:

i.Novak Djokovic won his 38th Masters 1,000 title after the victory over Casper Ruud in the semi-finals held on May 14 2022 and he is only the **fifth man** in the Open Era to reach the 1,000 wins milestone after Jimmy Connors, Roger Federer, Ivan Lendl and Rafael Nadal.

ii.The 38th Masters 1000 title is also his 87th overall ATP title (Association of Tennis Professionals Title).

ii.The Italian open 2022 title is his first title in this year (2022) and **sixth** in Rome (Previously in the year 2008, 2011, 2014, 2015 & 2020).

Adani Group Acquires Franchise in UAE T20 League

AdaniSportsline, a subsidiary of the Adani group, has acquired the rights to own and operate a franchise in the six-member United Arab



Emirates (UAE) T20 League. By acquiring the franchise, it becomes the fourth Indian group after Reliance Industries (RIL), GrandhiMallikarjunaRao (GMR) group and Capri Global. The tournament is likely to commence in June, 2022. The tournament consists of **six-teams** and a total of **34 matches** will be played.

- Adani will be the **fifth franchise** owner of the UAE T20 league, marking its first major foray into cricket overseas.

2022 IBA Women's World Boxing Championships held at Istanbul; Turkey Tops Medal Tally

The **12th edition** of 2022 International Boxing Association (IBA) **Women's World Boxing Championship(WWBC)** was held at Başakşehir Youth and Sports Facility, Istanbul, Turkey from May 8 to May 20, 2022. The Turkey topped the medal tally with five gold and two bronze medals, was honoured as the best team of the Championships.



Key points:

- i. India for the first time in the past four years, had won a total medal tally of 3, which includes one Gold and two Bronze.
- ii. The Indian Boxer **NikhatZareen**, who hails from Nizamabad city of Andhra Pradesh (now Telangana), won the gold in flyweight (52kg) division with 5-0 points against Thailand's JitpongJutamas. With this win she became the fifth Indian women boxer to win the World Championship.
- iii. The other two Indian women boxers ManishaMoun (from Haryana) and ParveenHooda(from Haryana) had won the bronze medals in 57kg and 63kg categories respectively.

Football: Italian Cup 2021/2022: Inter Milan Beat Juventus to Win the 2022 title

Inter Milan (FC Internazionale Milano) defeated **Juventus**, **14 times** **champions**, for **4-2** at the StadioOlimpico in Rome, Italy and won the **Italian Cup (Coppa Italia) 2021/2022** – branded as the Coppa Italia Frecciarossa 2021-2022. The 2021-2022 title marks the **8th Italian Cup of Inter Milan** 2021–22 Coppa Italia, the 75th season of Italy's premier football cup, was held from 7th August 2021 to 11th May 2022 in Italy.



Obituaries

Legendary Santoor Player & Padma Awardee Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma Passed Away

Legendary musician and santoor player and Padma Awardee **Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma** has passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was born on 13th January 1938 in Jammu, British India (now Jammu & Kashmir (J&K)).

About Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma:

- i. Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma is well known for his efforts in shifting the Santoor, a traditional instrument of Jammu & Kashmir, from an accompaniment and ensemble role in the Sufi music to a solo role in the Hindustani classical music.
- ii. He also played music for several films, including *Silsila* (1981) and *Chandni* (1989).
- iii. In 1967, he collaborated with flautist Hariprasad Chaurasia and guitarist Brij Bhushan Kabra and produced the concept album “**Call of the Valley**”.

Autobiography: *Journey with a Hundred Strings: My Life in Music* (2002).

Awards:

- i. He received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1986.
- ii. The government of India has honoured him with **Padma Shri** in **1991** and **Padma Vibhushan**, India’s second-highest civilian award, in **2001**, for his contribution in the field of Arts.



Former Union Minister & Veteran Politician Pandit Sukh Ram Passed Away

Pandit Sukh Ram, former Union Minister of Communication and Information Technology and Congress Party veteran died at the age of 94 in New Delhi, Delhi.

About Sukh Ram:

- i. Sukh Ram was born on 27 July 1927 in Kotli town of Mandi district Himachal Pradesh (HP) and belongs to the Indian National Congress (INC) Party.
- ii. He held the portfolio of Minister of Communication and Information Technology (Independent charge) from 1993 to 1996, representing Mandi Lok Sabha Constituency. During which he was credited with leading a telecom revolution in the country.
- iii. He represented the Mandi Legislative Assembly Constituency from 1963 to 1984.
- iv. Sukh Ram, as an Animal Husbandry minister, imported cows from Germany which led to the increase in



income of HP's farmers.

v. On Total he won Vidhan Sabha elections five times and Lok Sabha elections three times.

UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Passed Away

Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, ruler of Abu Dhabi and the President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has passed away. He was born in 1948 in the inland oasis of Al Ain, Eastern Region of Abu Dhabi.

Key Points:

Under the constitution, Vice President and Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the ruler of Dubai, would act as president until the federal council which groups the rulers of the seven emirates meets within 30 days to elect a new president.



About Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan:

- i. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan was the eldest son of the founder and first President of UAE Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan.
- ii. He was appointed as the 2nd President of UAE and the ruler of Abu Dhabi in November 2004 succeeding his father Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan, who served as the leader of Abu Dhabi from 1971 till his death in November 2004.
- iii. Prior to his appointment, he was the crown prince of Abu Dhabi and headed the Abu Dhabi's Supreme Petroleum Council, which drafts the oil policy.

Former Australian Cricketer Andrew Symonds Passed Away

Andrew Symonds, former Australian all-rounder, died in a car accident outside Townsville in Queensland state of Australia.

About Andrew Symonds:

- i. Andrew Symonds was born on 9 June 1975 in Birmingham, United Kingdom.
- ii. He played 26 test matches and 198 One-Day Internationals (ODIs) for Australia and won Two back-to-back 50 over World Cups in 2003 and 2007.
- iii. In 198 ODIs, Symonds scored over 5000 runs, including six hundreds and 30 half-centuries and also took 133 wickets.



- iv. After retiring as a player in February 2012, Symonds became a popular commentator for cricket broadcasters.
- v. Symonds has played for Deccan Chargers in the first three seasons of the Indian Premier League (IPL), for Mumbai Indians in IPL 2011.

Important Days with theme

International Labour Day 2022 – May 1

International Labour Day, a day of labour and Solidarity, is annually observed across the globe on **1st May** to create awareness about labour rights and to recognize the efforts of the working class.

- The day is observed in more than 80 countries across the globe, including, India, China, Cuba etc.,
- International Labour Day is also referred to as International Workers Day or May Day or Antarrashtriya Shramik Diwas or Kamgar Din.



Background:

i. The first International Congress of Socialist Parties in Europe held on 14th July 1889 in Paris, France, proclaimed to dedicate 1st May of every year as the “Workers Day of International Unity and Solidarity.”

ii. The **first May day** celebration focused on workers was observed on **1st May 1890**.

- The origin of the International Labour Day is associated with the struggle for a shorter workday, “The 8-hour day movement”.

World Press Freedom Day 2022 – May 3

The United Nations(UN)’s **World Press Freedom Day** is annually observed across the globe on **3rd May** to celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom and to assess the state of press freedom throughout the world.

The day also defends the media from attacks on their independence and pays tribute to the journalists who have lost their lives in the line of duty.



- The theme of World Press Freedom Day 2022 is “**Journalism under digital siege**”.

Why May 3?

May 3 marks the anniversary of the **Windhoek Declaration**, a benchmark for ensuring press freedom around the world, adopted on 3rd May 1991.

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day 2022 – May 8

The **World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day** is annually observed across the globe on **8th May** to celebrate the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The day 8th May marks the birth anniversary of **Jean Henry Dunant**, (born on 8th May 1828), the founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the first Nobel Peace Prize laureate (1901).



Note: The first Nobel Peace Prize was jointly received by Jean Henry Dunant and Frédéric Passy.

The **theme** of 2022 World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is **“Be Human Kind”**.

About International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC):

President– Francesco Rocca

Members– 192 member National Societies

Headquarters– Geneva, Switzerland

National Technology Day 2022 – May 11

National Technology Day is annually observed across India on 11th May to commemorate the achievements of scientists, researchers, engineers and others involved in the field of science and Technology and to celebrate the major technological advancements of India.

National Technology Day commemorates the day on which India successfully conducted the **Pokhran nuclear test (Pokhran II) code-named Operation Shakti on 11th May 1998**.



- The theme of National Technology Day 2022 is **‘Integrated Approach in Science and Technology for Sustainable Future’**.
- Technology Development Board(**TDB**) has stated the theme of National Technology Day 2022 is **“PRAGATI: Promoting Avenues for Growth through Technological Innovations”**.

The theme of the National Technology Day event is decided by the Technology Development Board(**TDB**), under the Department of Science and Technology(**DST**).

Background:

- On 11th May 1998, India successfully conducted underground nuclear tests in the Pokhran range, Rajasthan.
- Then Prime Minister(PM), Atal Bihari Vajpayee declared the 11th May of every year as the National Technology Day as a reminder of the anniversary of the Pokhran II tests.
- The first National Technology Day was observed on 11th May 1999.

International Nurses Day – May 12 2022

International Nurses Day (IND) is annually celebrated across the globe on 12th May to acknowledge the selfless contribution of the Nurses across the globe and to highlight the sacrifices they make.

The International Nurses Day 2022 (IND2022) recognises the selfless service of the nurses during the COVID-19 pandemic and those living in conflict zones around the world, including Ukraine.



- The day is observed to mark the birth anniversary of British Nurse and statistician **Florence Nightingale**, one of the founders of modern nursing. She was born on 12th May 1820 in Florence, Grand Duchy of Tuscany (Italy).

The theme of IND2022 is “**Nurses: A Voice to Lead – Invest in Nursing and respect rights to secure global health**”.

International Mother’s Day 2022 – May 8

International Mother’s Day is annually celebrated across the globe on the second Sunday of May to commemorate the efforts of mothers and honour their value in our lives. The day also honours motherhood and maternal bonds.

International Mother’s Day 2022 falls on **8th May 2022**.

- International Mother’s Day 2021 was observed on **9th May 2021** and the International Mother’s Day 2023 will be observed on **14th May 2023**.
- Anna Jarvis, an American activist, founded the observance of Mother’s Day to honour her and “all mothers” in 1908.
- She celebrated the first Mother’s Day on 12th May 1908 and held a memorial for her mother in Grafton, West Virginia.



World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2022 – May 17

The United Nations (UN) World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is annually observed on 17th May to create awareness of the possibilities of the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) in societies and economies.



- 17th May also marks the anniversary of the signing of the 1st International Telegraph Convention and the creation of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

The theme of WTISD 2022 is “**Digital technologies for older persons and healthy ageing**”.

About International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

ITU is a UN agency which coordinates telecommunication operations and services throughout the world. It was founded in 1865 as International Telegraph Union, the ITU is the oldest existing international organisation.

International Tea Day 2022 – May 21

The United Nations(UN) **International Tea Day** is annually observed across the globe on **21st May** to promote the production and consumption of tea across the globe and to create awareness about the significance of tea in combating global poverty and hunger.



- The day is observed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations(FAO) in collaboration with other relevant organisations.
- Tea is one of the most important cash crops in developing countries.

Background:

- The United Nations General Assembly(UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/74/241 on 19th December 2019 and proclaimed the 21st May of every year as the International Tea Day.
- The first ever UN’s International Tea Day was observed on **21st May 2020**.

Anti-Terrorism Day 2022 – May 21

Anti Terrorism Day is annually observed across India on 21st May to mark the death anniversary of former Indian Prime Minister (PM) **Rajiv Gandhi**, who was assassinated in 1991 at Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu.

- 21st May 2022 marks the 31st death anniversary of 6th former Prime Minister of India PM Rajiv Gandhi.

Objective:

- The day aims to wean away from the youth from terrorism and the cult of violence by highlighting the suffering of the common people.
- The day also aims to show how violence and terrorism are prejudicial to the national interest.



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